

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a network including a client system and a plurality of servers, the plurality of servers including a web server, a method for executing an application program that is available for use, the method comprising:

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- (a) receiving, by the web server, an identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of the plurality of servers;
 - (b) creating, at the web server, a page describing a display of hosted application programs available to the client system;
 - (c) transmitting the created page to the client system for display;
 - (d) receiving, from the client system, a request to execute one of the hosted application programs;
 - (e) choosing, from the plurality of servers, a server hosting the requested application program;
 - (f) executing the requested application program at the chosen server; and
 - (g) providing output from the ~~executing application program~~ executing at the chosen server directly to the client system for display at the client system.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving, by the web server, user credentials from a client system.


Claim 3 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises:

- (a) parsing an SGML document; and
- (b) retrieving, responsive to the parsed SGML document, an identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of the plurality of servers.

Claim 4 (previously amended): The method of claim 2 wherein receiving user credentials comprises receiving by the web server biometric user credentials from a client system.

Claim 5 (previously amended): The method of claim 2 wherein receiving user credentials comprises receiving by the web server encrypted user credentials from a client system.

Claim 6 (previously amended): The method of claim 2 wherein receiving user credentials further comprises:

-  (a) receiving by the web server user credentials from a client system;
(b) authenticating at the web server the user of the client system based on the received user credentials; and
(c) executing a selected one of the available application programs hosted by one of the plurality of servers without requiring further receipt of user credentials from the client system.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises creating an SGML page indicating hosted application programs available to the client system.


- Claim 8 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises creating an HTML page indicating hosted application programs available to the client system.


Claim 9 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises creating an output page describing the available application programs as icons in a graphical user interface window.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises transmitting the created page to the client system using HTTP.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

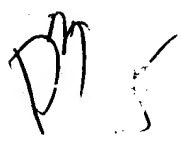
Claim 12 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein step (f) further comprises executing the requested application in a window described in the created page.

 Claim 13 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing a connection between the client system and the server executing the requested application.

 Claim 14 (previously amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating, by the web server, with the plurality of servers to determine the application programs hosted by the plurality of servers.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): In a network including a client system and a plurality of servers hosting application programs, a web server comprising:

 a service module collecting an identification of at least one application program hosted

by at least one of the plurality of servers;

a database storing the collected identifications wherein the service module chooses, based on the collected identifications, for at least one hosted application program a server selected from the plurality of servers for executing the application program for display on a client system;

an output display and selection creation engine creating a page describing a display of, and making available for selection, the hosted application programs available to the client system wherein one of the hosted application programs, upon selection, is executed at the chosen server for display on the client system; and

a transmitter transmitting at least one of the created page and the output from the application program executing at the chosen server directly to the client system for display at the client system.


Claim 17 (previously amended): The web server of claim 16 wherein said service module transmits a datagram to at least one of the plurality of servers to collect the identification of at least one application program hosted by those servers.

Claim 18 (previously amended): The web server of claim 16 wherein said output display and selection creation engine creates the page using SGML document templates.

Claim 19 (previously amended): The web server of claim 18 wherein said transmitter transmits the created page using HTTP.

Claim 20 (previously added): The web server of claim 16 further comprising a receiver receiving user credentials from the client system.

Claim 21 (previously added): The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving, by the web server, information selected from the group consisting of the address of the server hosting the identified application program, the users who are authorized to use the identified application, a group of users authorized to use the application, and the minimum capabilities required of the client system to execute the identified application.

 Claim 22 (previously added): The web server of claim 16 wherein the service module further collects information selected from the group consisting of the address of the server hosting the identified application program, the users who are authorized to use the identified application, a group of users authorized to use the application, and the minimum capabilities required of the client system to execute the identified application.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An article of manufacture having computer-readable means for presenting to a client system application programs that are available for use, the article comprising:

computer-readable means for receiving, by a web server, an identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of a plurality of servers;

computer-readable means for creating, at the web server, a page describing a display of hosted application programs available to a client system;

computer-readable means for transmitting the created page to the client system for display;

computer-readable means for receiving, from the client system, a request to execute one of the hosted application programs;

computer-readable means for choosing, from the plurality of servers, a server hosting the requested application program;

computer-readable means for executing the requested application program at the chosen server; and

computer-readable means for providing output from the ~~executing~~ application program executing at the chosen server directly to the client system for display at the client system.

Claim 24 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 23 further comprising computer-readable means for receiving, by the web server, user credentials from a client system.

Claim 25 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for receiving an identification further comprises:

computer-readable means for parsing an SGML document; and
computer-readable means for retrieving, responsive to the parsed SGML document, an identification of at least one application program hosted by at least one of the plurality of servers.

Claim 26 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable means for receiving user credentials comprises computer-readable means for receiving, by the web server, biometric user credentials from a client system.


Claim 27 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable means for receiving user credentials comprises computer-readable means for receiving, by the web server, encrypted user credentials from a client system.

Claim 28 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 24 wherein the computer-readable means for receiving user credentials further comprises:

computer-readable means for receiving, by the web server, user credentials from a client system;
computer-readable means for authenticating at the web server the user of the client system based on the received user credentials; and
computer-readable means for executing a selected one of the available application programs hosted by one of the plurality of servers without requiring further receipt of user credentials from the client system.

Claim 29 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for creating comprises computer-readable means for creating an SGML page indicating hosted application programs available to the client system.


Claim 30 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for creating comprises computer-readable means for creating an HTML page indicating hosted application programs available to the client system.

 Claim 31 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for creating comprises computer-readable means for creating an output page describing the available application programs as icons in a graphical user interface window.

Claim 32 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for transmitting comprises computer-readable means for transmitting the created page to the client system using HTTP.

Claim 33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously amended): The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the computer-readable means for executing at the chosen server further comprises computer-readable means for executing the requested application in a window described in the created page.

 Claim 35 (previously amended): The article of manufacture of claim 23 further comprising computer-readable means for establishing a connection between the client system and the server executing the requested application.

Claim 36 (previously added): The article of manufacture of claim 23 further comprising computer-readable means for communicating, by the web server, with the plurality of servers to determine the application programs hosted by the plurality of servers.
